

OFFICIAL DISPATCH

VIA: AIR

SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH

DISPATCH NO.

EGQW-3710

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TO : Chief of Mission, Frankfurt
FROM : Attention: ☒ Pullach
Chief, EE

DATE: JAN 27 1953

SUBJECT: GENERAL - Operational
SPECIFIC - Ferdinand DURCANSKY
Ref - BEHA-1238

1. The contents of reference seem to indicate that the position you have taken toward DURCANSKY since the beginning has been the correct one. The fact that DURCANSKY is not able to list his "assets" comes as no surprise as we have always been dubious that any genuine intelligence assets existed. From your last paragraph, which states that ZIPPER is now paying only his rent and does not intend to pay even this much longer, it would appear that they too are somewhat less than enchanted. Another possibility, of course, is that DURCANSKY has begun to realize that ZIPPER is presently in no position to meet his demands unconditionally, and has decided to market his wares elsewhere. Based on personal friendships and political sympathies, however, ZIPPER will no doubt continue to maintain an interest in, and probably lend a hand to his activities whenever possible.

2. The person whom you identify as "I" in paragraph 2b. of reference has been intensively interrogated at DRC, is presently in the HARVARD disposal channels, and intends to emigrate to the United States as soon as possible. All this is for your information only. We cannot, of course, preclude a meeting between "I" and DURCANSKY, should it be arranged by either ZIPPER or DURCANSKY himself, but we feel we should take no part in arranging such a get-together. "I" himself, who responded openly and freely to a most comprehensive interrogation, made no mention of any knowledge of resistance or espionage nets or individuals within CSR. "I" further has expressed no desire to see either DURCANSKY or any other member of SOV. We feel therefore that very little or nothing would come of a meeting between the two that would enhance DURCANSKY's value to us as an intelligence personality, and could very well

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expose certain U. S. personalities, modus operandi and disposal channels to DURCANSKY. We recommend, therefore, that you stall ZIPPER on their request for a meeting between "X" and DURCANSKY until such time as he is emigrated, when we will notify you.

3. Going further into reference to paragraph 2e., where ZIPPER states that V-11425 and V-21644 "strictly reject the notion of performing IS work for anyone", we are amazed. After the length of time these two, and particularly V-11425, have been employed, paid, described as forschers, and after lengthy discussions and reports of the "Inspector" with 800 men under arms in Slovakia, and other sundry proposals, that this attitude should suddenly be expressed must be regarded as little more than a swindle. No matter whether ZIPPER prefers to call them "Forschers", and "tippers", certainly these individuals have known, in some detail, that they were employed by and working for a U.S.-sponsored intelligence agency, and have accepted a considerable amount of money for their less than satisfactory efforts. We ourselves "reject any notion" that we are paying these individuals "only for advancing the interests of SOV", and strongly recommend that until their status is clarified, preferably in a written contract, all payments of whatever nature be suspended. Little if anything would be lost, in fact, if both were dropped outright, and such action might indicate to DURCANSKY that neither we nor ZIPPER intend to be pressured into anything.

4. We have compiled a number of traces on DURCANSKY for you which we are forwarding by separate pouch. While there is little as yet of real value, by sheer weight of numbers the reports indicate that he is something of an unsavory character. We have definitely established that DURCANSKY was branded a war criminal by the United Nations War Crimes Commission in London in 1945, and we are endeavoring to determine the specific charges. A recent query by the Swiss states that they have an extradition request for DURCANSKY from the Czech Legation and asks if he is still considered a war criminal. The answer is yes. The query was prompted by a Swiss desire to determine whether or not DURCANSKY should be permitted to reenter Switzerland. The Swiss decision in this matter is not at present known. Inasmuch as DURCANSKY is now believed to have Argentine citizenship, this may not be pertinent, but we believe no harm will be done if DURCANSKY is advised that he may be unable to reenter Switzerland, and also that the Czechs have requested his extradition from that country.

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